

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A monitoring tool comprising:
 - a placebo transaction dispatcher for dispatching placebo transactions to a subscribing e-commerce system;
 - a response collector for collecting responses to dispatched placebo transactions;
 - a logger for computing transaction latency data based upon when a placebo transaction is dispatched to said subscribing e-commerce system, and when a response is received in said collector; and,
 - an alerter for alerting said subscribing e-commerce system when computed transaction latency data indicates an unreliable response condition in an associated back-end transaction processing system.
2. The monitoring tool of claim 1, further comprising a user interface through which a user can monitor said transaction latency data.
3. The monitoring tool of claim 1, further comprising a list of references to a plurality of subscribing e-commerce systems, said dispatcher dispatching placebo transactions to each e-commerce system in said list, said collector collecting responses to said dispatched placebo transactions, said logger computing transaction latency data based upon when each placebo transaction is dispatched to a subscribing e-commerce system, and when a corresponding response is received in said collector, said alerter alerting individual subscribing e-commerce systems when computed transaction latency data for said individual subscribing e-commerce systems indicates an unreliable response condition in an associated back-end transaction processing system.
4. A monitoring tool comprising:
 - a placebo transaction dispatcher for dispatching placebo transactions to a back-end transaction processing system associated with a subscribing e-commerce system;

5 a response collector for collecting responses to dispatched placebo transactions;
6 a logger for computing transaction latency data based upon when a placebo
7 transaction is dispatched to said back-end transaction processing system, and when a
8 response is received in said collector; and,
9 an alerter for alerting said subscribing e-commerce system when computed
10 transaction latency data indicates an unreliable response condition in said associated
11 back-end transaction processing system.

1 5. The monitoring tool of claim 4, further comprising a user interface through which
2 a user can monitor said transaction latency data.

1 6. A method for detecting an unreliable response condition in a back-end
2 transaction processing system associated with an e-commerce system comprising the
3 steps of:

4 generating a placebo transaction;
5 dispatching said placebo transaction to the e-commerce system;
6 determining if a response to said placebo transaction is received;
7 if no response to said placebo transaction is received prior to detecting a
8 time-out condition, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response
9 condition exists in the back-end transaction processing system; and,
10 if a response to said placebo transaction is received after period of time has
11 elapsed from said dispatching of said placebo transaction which exceeds a latency
12 threshold, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response condition exists
13 in the back-end transaction processing system.

1 7. A method for detecting an unreliable response condition in a back-end
2 transaction processing system associated with an e-commerce system comprising the
3 steps of:

4 generating a placebo transaction;

5 dispatching said placebo transaction to the back-end transaction processing
6 system;
7 determining if a response to said placebo transaction is received;
8 if no response to said placebo transaction is received prior to detecting a
9 time-out condition, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response
10 condition exists in the back-end transaction processing system; and,
11 if a response to said placebo transaction is received after period of time has
12 elapsed from said dispatching of said placebo transaction which exceeds a latency
13 threshold, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response condition exists
14 in the back-end transaction processing system.

1 8. A method for detecting unreliable response conditions in a plurality of back-end
2 transaction processing systems comprising the steps of:
3 reading a list of references to a plurality of subscribing e-commerce systems;
4 generating and dispatching placebo transactions to each e-commerce system in
5 said list;
6 receiving responses to said dispatched placebo transactions;
7 computing transaction latency data based upon when each placebo transaction
8 is dispatched to a subscribing e-commerce system, and when a corresponding
9 response is received; and,
10 notifying individual subscribing e-commerce systems when computed transaction
11 latency data for said individual subscribing e-commerce systems indicates an unreliable
12 response condition in an associated back-end transaction processing system.

1 9. A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for
2 detecting an unreliable response condition in a back-end transaction processing system
3 associated with an e-commerce system, said computer program having a plurality of
4 code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps
5 of:
6 generating a placebo transaction;

7 dispatching said placebo transaction to the e-commerce system;
8 determining if a response to said placebo transaction is received;
9 if no response to said placebo transaction is received prior to detecting a
10 time-out condition, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response
11 condition exists in the back-end transaction processing system; and,
12 if a response to said placebo transaction is received after period of time has
13 elapsed from said dispatching of said placebo transaction which exceeds a latency
14 threshold, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response condition exists
15 in the back-end transaction processing system.

1 10. A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for
2 detecting an unreliable response condition in a back-end transaction processing system
3 associated with an e-commerce system, said computer program having a plurality of
4 code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps
5 of:

6 generating a placebo transaction;
7 dispatching said placebo transaction to the back-end transaction processing
8 system;
9 determining if a response to said placebo transaction is received;
10 if no response to said placebo transaction is received prior to detecting a
11 time-out condition, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response
12 condition exists in the back-end transaction processing system; and,
13 if a response to said placebo transaction is received after period of time has
14 elapsed from said dispatching of said placebo transaction which exceeds a latency
15 threshold, notifying the e-commerce system that an unreliable response condition exists
16 in the back-end transaction processing system.

1 11. A machine readable storage having stored thereon a computer program for
2 detecting unreliable response conditions in a plurality of back-end transaction
3 processing systems, said computer program having a plurality of code sections

